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Health Alert –Update on Multistate *Burkholderia cepacia* Investigation Linked to Contaminated Liquid Docusate Products – 12 July 2016

Action requested:

- **Be aware of a multi-state outbreak investigation of *Burkholderia cepacia* complex infections linked to liquid docusate products.**
- **Do not use any oral liquid docusate products as a stool softener or for any other medical purpose for <u>any</u> patients. This recommendation has been expanded to all patient populations. If an oral liquid docusate stool softener is medically necessary, alternative medicines should be used.**
- **Healthcare providers and laboratories should remain on alert for infections caused by *B. cepacia* complex among non-cystic fibrosis (CF) patients or clusters of such infections among CF patients.**
- **Facilities that identify infections caused by *B. cepacia* complex among non-CF patients or clusters of these infections among CF patients should sequester and save all docusate products used in the facility.**
- **Immediately report confirmed or suspected *B. cepacia* cases among non-CF patients or unusual clusters among CF patients to Public Health at (206) 296-4774 and notify infection control staff at your facility so that appropriate measures can be taken.**

Background:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to work with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), multiple state and local health departments, and numerous healthcare facilities to investigate a multi-state outbreak of *Burkholderia cepacia* complex infections. These infections have occurred primarily in ventilated patients without cystic fibrosis and who are being treated in intensive care units. To date, 47 *B. cepacia* complex cases have been confirmed by molecular typing to match one of two outbreak strain types identified from healthcare facilities in five states. Reports of possible cases from additional states are currently being investigated. CDC has confirmed that two samples of unused oral liquid docusate product received from one of the affected hospitals have tested positive for *B. cepacia* complex. Further testing is being conducted to determine if bacteria from these samples match the outbreak strains. FDA is currently testing multiple liquid docusate products that are epidemiologically linked to reported *B. cepacia* complex cases. To date, CDC has confirmed one product as having *B. cepacia* complex growth; however, because of epidemiologic links, CDC is concerned about potential contamination of multiple liquid docusate products, pending FDA's ongoing investigation of shared ingredients in the products in question.

At this time, CDC continues to recommend that clinicians not use any liquid docusate product as a stool softener or for any other medical purpose. This recommendation is now expanded to all patient populations. If an oral liquid docusate stool softener is medically necessary, alternative medicines should be used.

Resources

- CDC information on B. cepacia in healthcare settings: http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/bCepacia.html